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DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET  
LANSING

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**December Jobless Rates Increase Seasonally in All of Michigan's  
Regional Labor Markets**

*2012 Annual Unemployment Rates Drop in All Major Areas*

*Lansing* – Seasonally unadjusted unemployment rates rose in all of Michigan's 17 major labor market areas in December, according to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget. Total employment levels decreased in most regions over the month, while labor force levels increased in the majority of areas.

"December labor market activity throughout the state was fairly normal as unemployment rates typically increase going into the winter months," said Rick Waclawek, director of the Bureau of Labor Market Information & Strategic Initiatives. "Michigan's local labor market situation improved in 2012, as annual jobless rates fell for the second consecutive year in every major labor market area in the state."

From November to December, regional jobless rate advances were large, but mostly seasonal. Increases ranged from 0.5 to 2.5 percentage points with a median hike of 1.3 percentage points. Michigan's three northernmost labor market areas recorded the most significant unemployment rate increases, while only two areas recorded rate advances under a full percentage point. The Detroit-Warren-Livonia and the Ann Arbor Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) posted advances of 0.5 and 0.8 of a percentage point respectively over the month.

***Annual Average Jobless Rates Down Over Year***

Preliminary annual average data indicated that unemployment rates from 2011 to 2012 fell in all 17 major Michigan regions (see page 7). Over-the-year rate drops ranged from 1.1 (Ann Arbor and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs) to 1.8 percentage points (Monroe MSA) with a significant median decline of 1.5 percentage points. The lowest 2012 annual rate of 5.4 percent was displayed in the Ann Arbor MSA, while the highest annual rate of 11.0 percent was posted in the Northeast Lower Michigan region. Seven Michigan regions recorded 2012 annual rates below the national annual rate of 8.1 percent.

***Total Employment Down Over Month, Up Over Year***

Over the month, total employment declined in 15 regions, showing a moderate median decrease of 0.8 percent. Employment levels were essentially unchanged in both the Flint and Muskegon-Norton Shores MSAs from November to December.

Since December 2011, total employment rose in 11 regions with gains averaging around 1.5 percent. The largest over-the-year increases of around 2.5 percent occurred in the Holland-Grand Haven, Kalamazoo-Portage, and Monroe MSAs. Five areas reported moderate employment reductions of around 1.0 percent or less over the year, while employment in the Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSA was essentially unchanged.

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### ***Labor Force Levels Up Over Month, Mixed Over Year***

In December, labor force levels increased moderately in 15 regions and declined slightly in the Battle Creek and Ann Arbor MSAs.

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From December 2011 to December 2012, workforce levels rose in ten areas and declined in seven. Advances averaged over 1.0 percent and reductions averaged 0.7 percent. The largest labor force gains over this period took place in the Holland-Grand Haven and Kalamazoo-Portage MSA, with both regions showing increases of 1.7 percent.

### ***Seasonal Drops in Several Sectors Push December Payroll Jobs Downward***

The monthly survey of employers indicated that seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs in Michigan fell by 31,000 or 0.8 percent in December to 3,999,000. Seasonal job cuts were recorded in professional and business services (-12,000), construction (-10,000), and government (-8,000). The state's remaining industry sectors were little changed in December, with offsetting job gains and losses of 2,000 or less.

December payroll jobs declined in all 14 Michigan metropolitan areas. Seasonal job reductions ranged from 0.1 to 1.6 percent throughout the various metro regions, with an average drop of 0.9 percent. Nearly all areas recorded job cuts in construction, professional and business services and government.

Retail trade jobs throughout the state were little changed from November to December. However over the holiday hiring season from September to December, retail trade jobs rose by 15,000. This increase was about the same as 2011, but was slightly above the average of the prior five years.

Since December 2011, seasonally unadjusted payroll jobs increased statewide by 17,000 or 0.4 percent. The largest job gains over the year continued to be recorded in manufacturing (+13,000). Other over-the-year job increases were posted in professional and business services (+7,000), education and health services (+5,000), leisure and hospitality services (+3,000), and financial activities (+3,000). Job reductions over this period were registered in government (-4,000), trade, transportation and utilities (-4,000), and construction (-3,000).

Since December 2011, ten of Michigan's 14 major metropolitan regions recorded payroll job gains, with an average increase of 1.2 percent. Jobs declined over the year in the Muskegon-Norton Shores, Battle Creek, Lansing-East Lansing, and Saginaw-Saginaw Township North MSAs.

### ***County Jobless Rates Up Over Month, Down Over Year***

All of Michigan's 83 counties recorded jobless rate increases in December, with a significant median advance of 1.7 percentage points. These hikes were seasonal with the largest increases located in the state's northern areas. In December, 18 Michigan counties displayed jobless rates at or below the national non-seasonally adjusted rate of 7.6 percent.

From December 2011 to December 2012, unemployment rates decreased in 71 Michigan counties, with a half percentage point median decline. Eleven counties registered mostly minor rate increases over this period, while one county's rate was unchanged.

*Note: Data in this release is **not seasonally adjusted**. As a result, employment and unemployment trends may differ from previously released Michigan seasonally adjusted data.*

*A breakdown of seasonally unadjusted December workforce estimates for Michigan and its 17 major labor market areas follows, along with a listing of county jobless rates for December.*

*Note to Editors: Please ensure that the source for state unemployment rates reads "Michigan Department of Technology, Management & Budget."*

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	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>ANN ARBOR MSA</b> (Washtenaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	181,200	183,700	183,300	-0.2%	1.2%
Total Employment	171,400	175,800	173,900	-1.1%	1.5%
Unemployment	9,800	7,900	9,400	19.0%	-4.1%
Rate (percent)	5.4	4.3	5.1		

Contact: Mark Reffitt, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 492-5550

	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BATTLE CREEK MSA</b> (Calhoun County)					
Civilian Labor Force	63,700	62,800	62,600	-0.3%	-1.7%
Total Employment	58,800	59,000	58,200	-1.4%	-1.0%
Unemployment	4,800	3,700	4,500	21.6%	-6.3%
Rate (percent)	7.6	5.9	7.1		

Contact: Leonidas Murembya, DTMB Regional Economic Analyst (517) 841-5634

	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>BAY CITY MSA</b> (Bay County)					
Civilian Labor Force	51,600	51,700	52,100	0.8%	1.0%
Total Employment	47,200	48,200	47,800	-0.8%	1.3%
Unemployment	4,400	3,500	4,300	22.9%	-2.3%
Rate (percent)	8.5	6.8	8.3		

Contact: Jeff Aula, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3144

	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA</b> <b>(Data in thousands)</b> (Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Lapeer, Livingston, St. Clair counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	1,997	1,991	1,993	0.1%	-0.2%
Total Employment	1,803	1,798	1,789	-0.5%	-0.8%
Unemployment	194	194	204	5.2%	5.2%
Rate (percent)	9.7	9.7	10.2		

Contact: Jim Rhein, DTMB Economic Analyst (313) 456-3095

	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>FLINT MSA</b> (Genesee County)					
Civilian Labor Force	185,500	184,600	187,100	1.4%	0.9%
Total Employment	168,000	170,100	170,100	0.0%	1.3%
Unemployment	17,600	14,500	17,000	17.2%	-3.4%
Rate (percent)	9.5	7.8	9.1		

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	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA</b>					
(Barry, Ionia, Kent, Newaygo counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	379,200	382,200	383,600	0.4%	1.2%
Total Employment	352,000	361,500	358,900	-0.7%	2.0%
Unemployment	27,100	20,700	24,700	19.3%	-8.9%
Rate (percent)	7.2	5.4	6.5		

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	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA</b>					
(Ottawa County)					
Civilian Labor Force	129,400	130,500	131,600	0.8%	1.7%
Total Employment	120,300	123,600	123,300	-0.2%	2.5%
Unemployment	9,100	6,900	8,300	20.3%	-8.8%
Rate (percent)	7.0	5.3	6.3		

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	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>JACKSON MSA</b>					
(Jackson County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,000	71,500	71,900	0.6%	1.3%
Total Employment	64,900	66,600	66,100	-0.8%	1.8%
Unemployment	6,100	4,900	5,800	18.4%	-4.9%
Rate (percent)	8.6	6.8	8.1		

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	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA</b>					
(Kalamazoo and Van Buren counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	157,300	159,500	159,900	0.3%	1.7%
Total Employment	144,800	149,900	148,300	-1.1%	2.4%
Unemployment	12,500	9,600	11,600	20.8%	-7.2%
Rate (percent)	8.0	6.0	7.3		

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	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA</b>					
(Clinton, Eaton, and Ingham counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	235,500	233,800	233,900	0.0%	-0.7%
Total Employment	218,900	220,700	218,200	-1.1%	-0.3%
Unemployment	16,600	13,100	15,700	19.8%	-5.4%
Rate (percent)	7.0	5.6	6.7		

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	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MONROE MSA</b>					
(Monroe County)					
Civilian Labor Force	67,600	68,300	68,700	0.6%	1.6%
Total Employment	61,900	63,900	63,400	-0.8%	2.4%
Unemployment	5,700	4,400	5,200	18.2%	-8.8%
Rate (percent)	8.4	6.4	7.6		

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	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA</b>					
(Muskegon County)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,200	80,100	81,100	1.2%	-1.3%
Total Employment	74,900	74,100	74,100	0.0%	-1.1%
Unemployment	7,300	6,000	6,900	15.0%	-5.5%
Rate (percent)	8.8	7.5	8.6		

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	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA</b>					
(Berrien County)					
Civilian Labor Force	71,800	72,200	72,400	0.3%	0.8%
Total Employment	65,100	66,900	66,100	-1.2%	1.5%
Unemployment	6,700	5,200	6,300	21.2%	-6.0%
Rate (percent)	9.3	7.2	8.8		

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	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>SAGINAW-Saginaw Township North MSA</b>					
(Saginaw County)					
Civilian Labor Force	89,600	88,700	89,400	0.8%	-0.2%
Total Employment	81,900	82,400	81,900	-0.6%	0.0%
Unemployment	7,700	6,300	7,500	19.0%	-2.6%
Rate (percent)	8.6	7.1	8.4		

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	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>UPPER PENINSULA LMA</b>					
(15 counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	144,300	143,500	144,000	0.3%	-0.2%
Total Employment	130,300	132,800	130,500	-1.7%	0.2%
Unemployment	13,900	10,800	13,500	25.0%	-2.9%
Rate (percent)	9.7	7.5	9.4		

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(more)

	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Alcona, Alpena, Cheboygan, Crawford, Iosco, Montmorency, Ogemaw, Oscoda, Otsego, Presque Isle, Roscommon counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	82,800	81,500	82,300	1.0%	-0.6%
Total Employment	72,500	73,700	72,400	-1.8%	-0.1%
Unemployment	10,300	7,800	9,900	26.9%	-3.9%
Rate (percent)	12.5	9.6	12.1		

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<b>NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN</b>					
(Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties)					
Civilian Labor Force	140,200	137,800	140,300	1.8%	0.1%
Total Employment	124,900	126,500	126,100	-0.3%	1.0%
Unemployment	15,300	11,300	14,200	25.7%	-7.2%
Rate (percent)	10.9	8.2	10.1		

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	<u>Dec-11</u>	<u>Nov-12</u>	<u>Dec-12</u>	% change month	% change year
<b>MICHIGAN (Data in thousands)</b>					
Civilian Labor Force	4,617	4,610	4,629	0.4%	0.3%
Total Employment	4,204	4,245	4,217	-0.7%	0.3%
Unemployment	414	365	411	12.6%	-0.7%
Rate (percent)	9.0	7.9	8.9		

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**Note:**

The table above contains **seasonally unadjusted** data for Michigan for 2012 and 2011, which should be used in comparison with data for Michigan regions or counties.

DTMB released earlier the **seasonally adjusted** December 2012 unemployment rate for Michigan (8.9 percent), which is best used for:

- Identifying recent Michigan workforce trends
- Conducting comparisons with unemployment rates for the U.S. and other states

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**MICHIGAN'S MAJOR LABOR MARKET AREA'S  
PRELIMINARY ANNUAL AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 2011 – 2012**

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
ANN ARBOR MSA	6.5	5.4
BATTLE CREEK MSA	8.9	7.2
BAY CITY MSA	9.7	8.3
DETROIT-WARREN-LIVONIA MSA	11.5	10.2
FLINT MSA	10.9	9.2
GRAND RAPIDS - WYOMING MSA	8.3	6.7
HOLLAND - GRAND HAVEN MSA	8.3	6.6
JACKSON MSA	9.9	8.2
KALAMAZOO - PORTAGE MSA	8.8	7.3
LANSING - EAST LANSING MSA	8.1	6.9
MONROE MSA	9.7	7.9
MUSKEGON - NORTON SHORES MSA	10.2	8.7
NILES - BENTON HARBOR MSA	10.1	8.8
SAGINAW-SAGINAW TOWNSHIP NORTH MSA	9.6	8.5
UPPER PENINSULA LMA	10.1	8.9
NORTHEAST LOWER MICHIGAN	12.5	11.0
NORTHWEST LOWER MICHIGAN	11.1	9.5
MICHIGAN	10.3	8.9

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## MICHIGAN COUNTIES RANKED BY UNEMPLOYMENT RATE DECEMBER 2012

1	Washtenaw County	5.1	43	Mason County	9.6
2	Clinton County	5.9	44	Alpena County	9.6
3	Eaton County	6.2	45	Tuscola County	9.8
4	Kent County	6.2	46	Macomb County	9.9
5	Isabella County	6.2	47	Kalkaska County	9.9
6	Barry County	6.3	48	Sanilac County	10.1
7	Ottawa County	6.3	49	Osceola County	10.4
8	Kalamazoo County	6.6	50	Montcalm County	10.4
9	Midland County	6.7	51	Ogemaw County	10.5
10	Allegan County	6.9	52	Crawford County	10.5
11	Menominee County	6.9	53	Manistee County	10.6
12	Ingham County	7.1	54	Benzie County	10.7
13	Calhoun County	7.1	55	Missaukee County	10.8
14	Marquette County	7.3	56	Chippewa County	11.1
15	Dickinson County	7.5	57	Otsego County	11.1
16	St. Joseph County	7.6	58	Alger County	11.3
17	Monroe County	7.6	59	Iosco County	11.4
18	Ionia County	7.6	60	Wayne County	11.4
19	Leelanau County	8.0	61	Clare County	11.5
20	Grand Traverse County	8.0	62	Wexford County	11.6
21	Jackson County	8.1	63	Charlevoix County	11.6
22	Branch County	8.1	64	Oceana County	11.9
23	Cass County	8.1	65	Antrim County	11.9
24	Houghton County	8.3	66	Roscommon County	11.9
25	Bay County	8.3	67	St. Clair County	12.3
26	Saginaw County	8.4	68	Luce County	12.4
27	Huron County	8.5	69	Gladwin County	12.4
28	Newaygo County	8.5	70	Lake County	12.6
29	Livingston County	8.5	71	Emmet County	12.7
30	Oakland County	8.6	72	Schoolcraft County	12.7
31	Muskegon County	8.6	73	Arenac County	12.8
32	Lenawee County	8.6	74	Lapeer County	13.2
33	Gratiot County	8.7	75	Ontonagon County	13.4
34	Berrien County	8.8	76	Cheboygan County	13.7
35	Mecosta County	8.9	77	Alcona County	14.8
36	Genesee County	9.1	78	Oscoda County	15.5
37	Shiawassee County	9.1	79	Keweenaw County	15.9
38	Gogebic County	9.2	80	Presque Isle County	16.2
39	Iron County	9.3	81	Montmorency County	16.5
40	Hillsdale County	9.4	82	Mackinac County	17.9
41	Delta County	9.5	83	Baraga County	18.3
42	Van Buren County	9.5			

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